

How to Improve Your Marriage: Get Back to Basics

Randy Patten

INTRODUCTION:

1. Marriage of a man and a woman is a _____.

A. It was _____ by God who is loving, kind and merciful. The family design, structure and order were established before the Fall (Genesis 1, 2).

B. Adam was totally _____ in the institution of marriage. Since marriage is by God's design and not man's it must conform to His expressed will to function properly. Man is not free to redefine it, denigrate it or abandon it.

C. It is continually _____ in Scripture (Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 31:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7, Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5).

D. If you _____ about marriage as a positive, you will talk about it as a positive (Luke 6:45).

2. Marriage is a _____ (Ephesians 5:22-33).

A. The husband is to _____ God.

1) As head, he is to be most responsible (5:23).

2) As savior, he is to be most sacrificial (5:23).

3) As lover, he is to be most giving (5:25).

a) Immediate needs (5:26)

b) Long-term goals (5:27)

c) Encourages reciprocal love (5:28-30)

B. The wife is to portray the _____ by:

1) Submitting to the leadership of her husband (5:22)

2) Respecting her husband (5:33)

3) Loving her husband (Titus 2:4)

C. _____ and the things that lead to it destroy the picture. Avoid it!
3. **Marriage is _____ (Genesis 2:18-25).**

A. _____

1) This does not mean abandon or forsake parents (Deuteronomy 4:9, 1 Timothy 5:8). Neither does it demand a geographical move.

2) This does mean:

- a). Settle past conflict
- b). Recognize the “TPT” principle
- c). Making your marriage partner the primary human relationship
- d). Assuming financial responsibility

B. _____

- 1) Means to “weld together”
- 2) The basis of marriage is commitment, not love.
- 3) God views this commitment as very important (Proverbs 2:17, Malachi 2:14).

C. _____

- 1) God intended marriage to defeat loneliness.
- 2) God wants you and your mate to function as a team. It is achieved by having
 - a). the same goals
 - b). the same motives
 - c). continual communication
 - d). personal growth

e). a bit of creativity.

CONCLUSION: